



Beloved Community

Beloved, let us love one another, because
love is from God. - 1 John 4:7

Reformation Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Reformation!

Called by Christ, we **INVITE** all people, **SERVE** our neighbors, and **BUILD** a living faith.

Welcome! First time visitors are invited to stop by our welcome center in the lobby. All are invited to **check in** with us using the friendship pads in your row or online at relcmedia.org/hello.

Land Acknowledgement – Reformation is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking (Lenni-Lenape) people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We recognize and honor all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Children in worship are a blessing. We invite our smallest members to sit toward the front where it is easiest for them to see and hear worship and to join the pastors for the Sermon on the Steps. A Pray Ground space is available during worship at the back of the sanctuary. Worship Bags can be filled at the Pray Ground and taken to your seat. A professionally staffed nursery is available for children from birth to age 4. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby. A family restroom is located on the lower level.

All are welcome at the table where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
 - Grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
 - Wine is held by the Communion assistant to the side of the pastor

Children and those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

Our Prayer List can be found at relcmedia.org/virtualchurch. To make your prayer request known, please call or email the church office at 610-891-0600, rlc@relcmedia.org.

Williams Personal PA Receivers are available for use by the hearing impaired.

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.

Gathering

*Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are indicated in bold

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Confession and Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

[Silence is kept for reflection]

Almighty God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbors. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us.

In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon you, and forgives you all your sins.

Amen.

Gathering Song*

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

Hymn 257

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 7/8 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics placed below the notes. The first two staves contain the main verses, the third staff is the refrain, and the fourth staff is the final line of the hymn. The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are: 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive; 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things; Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay; un - til the Son of God ap - pear. teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

[The assembly continues to sing the Gathering Song.]

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. *Refrain* Re - joice! Re - joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Greeting*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie*

Ⓐ In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. Ⓐ For the

ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a melody in G major with a 7/8 time signature. The lower staff contains a bass line with rests. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melody from the first system. The lower staff contains a bass line with rests. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

Lord. Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, the well - being of the

ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melody. The lower staff contains a bass line with rests. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

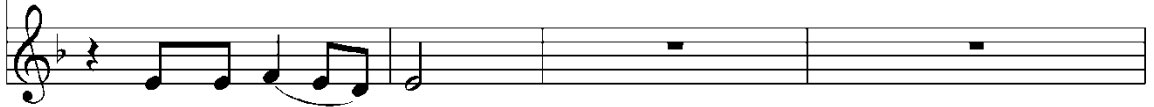
Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

The fourth system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melody. The lower staff contains a bass line with rests. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.



Lord.

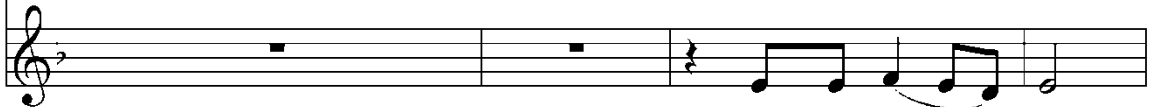
A For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their



C Lord, have mer - cy.



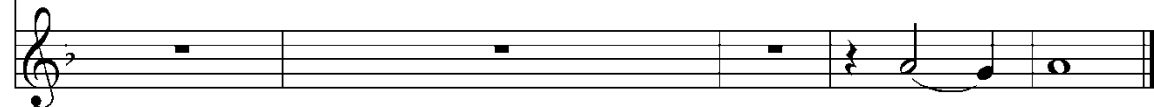
wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, com-fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



C A - men

Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from First Thessalonians.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*

[The assembly stands to welcome the gospel as it is brought forward in procession.]



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo-ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal-le-lu-jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis-dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis-dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Gospel*

Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon on the Steps

Sermon

Pastor Alina Gayeuski

Prayer Litany – Longing for the Light of Healing and Hope

As we wait and watch for the light of Christ coming into the world, let us pray for all who are longing for healing and hope in these days.

We pray for those who live with illness in mind, body or spirit, for those who experience continued pain, and for those living with injuries. Let us pray that the light of new hope and new life will illumine their days.

Open our eyes, Lord, to the coming of your light that lifts darkness from our lives.

We pray for those who live in the darkness of sadness and loss and for those who struggle to know love in their lives. Let us pray that the compassionate light of Christ will accompany them on their journey, surrounding them with God's love.

Open our souls, Lord, to the warmth of your coming. Melt the hardness that keeps us from you and from each other.

We pray for those who weep, for those who are victims of war and those who are prisoners, for those who are victims of violence and oppression, for those without homes or without food or without hope. Let us pray that the light of Christ's healing will ease their pain and their tears.

Open our world, Lord, frozen by injustice. Clothe it with your renewing love.

We pray for all those longing for the light to break into their darkness, that their burdens may be lightened, the chaos of this world be calmed, and the hope of God's promise be restored, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Amen.

Candle Lighting and Prayer for Healing

[All are invited to come forward to light a candle as a symbol of prayer and of the hope of the light of Christ coming into the world. You are also invited to come forward for personal prayer at one of the stations in the front of the sanctuary. Please proceed to the first open prayer station. As you come to the prayer partner, you can name specific prayer concerns or ask for a general blessing of healing. During this time, everyone is invited to join in singing the Hymn of the Day which can be found on the following page.]

Hymn of the Day*

Christ Be Our Light

Hymn 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Prayers of Intercession*

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

[After each prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

[The prayers conclude:]

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy
Amen.

Peace*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

[The people greet one another with "Peace be with you" and a sign of Christ's peace.]

Meal

Offering

[Use pew envelopes or scan code to give online]



Musical Offering

We are Waiting
Chancel Choir

arr. Priscilla Lamparter Landis

Setting the Table*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled "Setting the Table". It consists of six staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, and rests. The lyrics are: "Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come." The score ends with a double bar line.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer*

Let us pray. God our provider,
**by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and
bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast
love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and a key signature of one flat. The melody features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some notes beamed together. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first staff. The second staff includes a triplet of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Holy God, the Beginning and the End ...
... in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer*

With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

Communion

God fills the hungry with good things. Come with joy to the feast.

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at the table where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
 - Grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
 - Wine is held by the Communion assistant to the side of the pastor

Children and those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

Lamb of God



♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;




have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Song

He Came Down

Hymn 253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

Table Blessing*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion*

Let us pray. Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Sending of Communion*

Let us pray. Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

Blessing*

The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, +
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song*

People Look East

Hymn 248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Dismissal*

Called by Christ,

We invite all people, serve our neighbors, and build a living faith.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Today's Worship Team
relcmedia.org/worshipteam



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Welcome to Reformation!

Called by Christ we invite all people, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. Reformation is an affirming congregation for all: rejoicing with the young and old, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, working to cultivate an accessible and inclusive community for all abilities, and embracing all races, cultures, and faith traditions.

We serve our neighbors following the teachings of Christ. Reformation responds to the needs of the most vulnerable - providing nourishment and comfort, supporting the work of the local and global church, and protecting God's creation for future generations.

We build a living faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Reformation embodies the unconditional love of God through worshiping and learning together and valuing the gifts of everyone. To create the fullness of our community of faith, we nurture relationships, pursue racial equity and gender justice, and advocate for the wellbeing of the marginalized.



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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 3:30pm; Friday, CLOSED